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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY

North Korea

DATE OF

SUBJECT

Sociological - Publications

INFORMATION

1949-50

HOW

DATE DIST. 25 Sep 1950

**PUBLISHED** 

Monthly periodical; daily newspapers

WHFRE

**PUBLISHED** 

P'yongyang; Seoul; Saigon

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

**PUBLISHED** 

Dec 1949 - 6 Jul 1950 . 00

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Korean, French

REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

Newspapers and periodical as indicated.

## DISCUSSES NORTH KOREAN PUBLICATIONS

LOW QUALITY PREVAILS -- Seoul Ibuk T'ongsin, Dec 49

Numerous periodicals and newspapers mushroomed in North Korea after the liberation. Among those still in publication is one called Munhwa Chonson, published by the North Korean Federation of Literature and Art. Despite the fact that this periodical is of low literary value, its publisher and chief editor, Han Sol-ya, and the staff editors, Yi Ki-yong, Yi Ch'an, An Ham-kwang, and Ch'oe Ki-ch'on, claim that it represents the latest literary trends of North Korea. It was originally a monthly publication, but due to printing difficulties it was reduced to a bi-monthly and finally to a quarterly.

The Russo-Korean Cultural Society publishes its organ bearing the organization's name, Choso Munhwa. Yi Ki-yong publishes this magazine as a monthpiece for Soviet propaganda. The same staff that edits the Munhwa Choason also edits Choao Munhwa. Yi Ch'an is the chief editor. Yi Ch'an, a self-styled poet, became famous overnight in North Korea when he wrote, "The Song Dedicated to General Kim Il-song." Choso Munhwa usually contains only translations of Soviet articles, indiscriminately selected. The fact that this magazine is subsidized by the Soviet government is beyond all doubt. Yi Ki-yong reportedly received a private automobile from the Soviet Ambassador Shtikov as a reward for his obedience to the USSR.

Noteworthy is the fact that none of the names of the top-flight writers who went from South Korea ever appear in these magazines. These so-called "South Korean writers in exile" include Yi T'ae-chun, Yi Won-cho, Kim Nam-ch'on, Im Hwa Chi Ho-yon, and many others. Whether these writers voluntarily shun these magazines or are deprived of the privilege of writing is not known.

Each of the above magazines publishes between 5,000 and 10,000 copies for each issue. They are inferior to South Korean publications in their content, print, and the paper used.

Munhak is another literary magazine published by the North Korean Federation of Literature and Art. It is edited by An Ham-kwang, a self-styled materialist and critic, who is also a member of the Central Standing Committee of the federation.

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The Central People's Committee of North Korea publishes its propaganda mouthpiece called, <u>Inmin</u>, which allegedly carries articles on "current affairs," but in fact is reserved for the full texts of speeches of Kim Il-song and his henchmen. The <u>Inmin</u> is edited by T'ae Song-chu, an obscure individual.

The Ministry of Education publishes <u>Inmin Kyoyuk</u>, which usually devotes its pages to the translations of articles by Soviet educators. All schools are required to subscribe to this magazine.

There is a children's magazine, called Adong Munhak, which is perhaps the only magazine of sustained literary quality among the North Korean publications.

The Kim Il-song University publishes a quarterly magazine called  $\underline{Yoksa}$ . It contains translations of Soviet scientific articles.

The T'aep'ung is the North Korean counterpart of Ibuk T'ongsin, in that both magazines expose the "inside stories" of South and North Korea, respectively, and attack the government of the other.

The so-called National People's Publishing Company puts out <u>Sae Chosum</u> which is perhaps the largest North Korean magazine in terms of size (usually 190-page 8vo.) This magazine publishes industrial news, usually lengthy reports of staff members' vists to North Korean factories. Recent issues have also carried economic reports on South Korea and stories of guerrilla activities on Cheju Island. A substantial part of this magazine is also reserved for Soviet propaganda.

The Literary Front Society, located at 17 Ch'ang-chon-ri, P'yongyang, publishes Munhak Aesul. Only eight issues of it have been published so far.

There is a Soviet Korean-language publication called <u>Kukche P'yongnon</u>, which specializes in discussions of international affairs and is the counterpart of the monthly periodical, <u>America</u> in South Korea. Its publication is under the direct supervision of the Soviet Embassy.

The foremost scientific magazine of North Korea is the <u>Chayon Kwahak</u>, published by Pang Hui-yong in close cooperation with the professors of sciences of the Kim Il-song University.

RESTRICTS OFFICIAL MAGAZINE TO PREPAID SUBSCRIBERS -- F'yongyang Minju Chosun, 16 Jan 50

Effective January 1950, <u>Inmin</u>, the official monthly publication of the People's Republic, will be distributed only to prepaid subscribers. The subscribers must pay in advance the fee of 40 won per issue. Due to limited issuance, the subscribers are asked to apply for subscriptions immediately at the following addresses:

In P'yongyang: Distribution Department, Central Newspaper Dispatch, Bureau of Publication Control, Ministry of Communications, c/o P'yongyang Central Post

Outside P'yongyang: The newspaper distribution center in each province; or the newspaper section in city and county postoffices.

COMMUNIST PAPERS APPEAR IN SECUL -- Saigon Le Journal d'Extreme Orient, 6 Jul 50

Tokyo (AFP) -- Radio P'yongyang has announced that since 1 July 1950, two new newspapers are being published in Seoul. They are <u>Common Korean</u> and <u>Free Korea</u>.  $\int$ no Korean names given.

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